

# STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

## *Miconia*

Maui County Priority Pest for Maui, Lanai, and Molokai:

**Miconia** (*Miconia calvescens*) is a fast growing tree known as "the green cancer" that quickly displaces all other plants in natural areas. Miconias is only currently known to grow in one area of Maui County (East Maui). Hitchhiking seeds have been found in Hapu'u plant containers imported from other infested islands.

### Identification

**Height-** 4-15 m (13-50 ft)

**Flower-** White to pink, short lived (<1 day)

**Fruit-** Dark purple, 7 mm (1/3 in)

**Leaves-** opposite growth pattern, up to 80 cm (31.5 in) long, dark green above and purple below, tree prominent pale green arcing veins



A typical miconia plant



Characteristic arcing vein shape and purple coloration on the underside of the leaf. This leaf is over one half meter (> 1.5 ft) long.



Broken leaf pieces will resprout!

### Don't mistake miconia for these look-alikes:



#### Koster's curse (*Clidemia hirta*)

This weedy shrub is found throughout Maui County.

**Height-** 0.5-3 m (5-10 ft)

**Leaves-** 5-16 cm (2-6.3 in) long and 3-8 cm (1.2-3.1 in) wide, covered in coarse hairs

**Fruit-** Bright blue



Coarse hairs on leaves

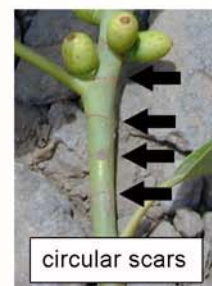


#### Rubber tree (*Ficus elastica*)

Rubber tree is a shiny, leathery plant that bears copious amounts of latex.

**Leaves-** broadly leaves, 7-20 cm (3.8 in) long, paler below than above

**Twigs-** have circular scars



circular scars

Report online: [www.reportapest.org](http://www.reportapest.org)

Call in a report

Maui/Lanai: 573-6471 Molokai: 553-5236

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